

A RENEWED CALL FOR COLLABORATION AMONG LACTATION PROFESSIONALS

Healthy Children Project is issuing a renewed call for collaboration in supporting women and their goals for breastfeeding. We believe that all lactation care professionals, no matter what credential they hold, should be working together in the spirit of support and cooperation to ensure the best care and outcomes for mothers and babies.

There are 4.3 million births in the United States every year. Of these 4.3 million new mothers, 80% intend to breastfeed. This means that there are over 3 million mothers and babies every year who need help in achieving their breastfeeding goals. We should be working together to ensure that the mothers and babies get the help and support they need. Claiming that one set of credentials is worthy of health insurance reimbursement and not others will severely limit mothers' and babies' access to quality care.

As lactation professionals, we need to consider the message we are sending to mothers and to the lactation care community in general when we engage in divisive and hurtful rhetoric over credentials (Taylor & Levenston, 2012). At Healthy Children Project we believe that lactation professionals should seek to empower mothers and support their confidence to make decisions for themselves and their infants based on their own innate abilities.

Healthy Children Project has been defining the field of research based breastfeeding education and ethical, evidence based breastfeeding practice for over 30 years. The 3500 CLCs who are trained and competency verified every year are fully qualified to assist mothers and babies in achieving their breastfeeding goals.

Please join us at Healthy Children Project in fostering cooperation and mutual respect among all lactation care providers. Let us combine our efforts to support mothers and babies, advocate for change within our society to normalize breastfeeding, and find creative ways to work and succeed as a community of professionals. Together we are facing real and serious issues in the U.S.: the shocking absence of universal paid parental leave, the persistent social stigma of breastfeeding in public, the precariousness of continued legislative support for breastfeeding programs including WIC Peer Counselors, and the insidious industry of formula marketing. These issues require our collective might, our great strength as passionate individuals working as one – only together will we succeed.

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References:

Taylor, T., & Levenston, S. *Women and Children's Issues: Call to the Spirit of Collaboration*. Retrieved 10/19/12 at <https://baby2breast.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Spirit-of-Collaboration.docx>